

Transportation Lobby Day 2007: Solutions for Healthier Communities

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Transportation Lobby Day: Solutions for Healthier Communities

Transportation continues to be one of Washington's top issues. Many of us spend too much time stuck in traffic or live in communities where healthy transportation choices like walking, biking, or taking transit simply aren't options. And the environmental and economic effects of climate change are a growing concern for Washington residents. We cannot build the same transportation system in the next fifty years as we built in the last fifty. Instead, let's support transportation investments that foster good land use policy, healthy communities, and efficient movement of people and goods.





Revising State Transportation Goals

Too many residents cannot choose to leave the car at home because there are few or no other options available. In part that's because we've developed a transportation system with the primary goal of moving cars, not people and goods.

Policy changes that open the door to prioritizing transportation projects by how well they move people and goods, not just cars are important for gaining more transportation choices in the future and building healthy, vibrant communities. Specifically, the goals should include:

- A paramount goal of moving people and goods efficiently
- Integrated multimodal planning by corridor
- Assessment of transportation impacts on carbon emissions
- Prioritization of critical safety and maintenance needs
- A statewide reduction of vehicle miles traveled
- Maximized inclusion of efficiency tools and strategies (eg: trip reduction incentives, subsidized bus passes)
- Sustainable and flexible long-term financing applications

Carbon Assessments

The connection between carbon dioxide and climate change is well-established in Washington State, where automobile emissions are the single largest contributor to global warming.

As that threat increasingly impacts our daily lives, it's time to set and implement statewide goals for reducing our CO₂ emissions.

Assessing the impact of transportation projects on CO₂ emissions should be an integrated part of:

- State transportation goals
- Environmental review of projects



Mobility Education

The program will add an element to traditional Driver Education or Traffic Safety Education courses that involves training in multiple modes of transportation, including transit, bike, foot, car-sharing, and new technologies – rather than simply handing out car keys to teens as they come of age. Through House Bill 1588, providing mobility education will:

- Establish mobility education pilot courses in King and Spokane Counties to develop and evaluate the benefits of an enhanced curriculum
- Require that pedestrian safety, bicycle safety, and mobility options be included in curriculum for Traffic Safety Education
- Increase safety for all modes of transportation by teaching from a standpoint of biking, walking, driving, and riding transit
- Support healthy, walkable communities
- Help reduce congestion and pollution

Additional Revenue and Policy Changes for Local Sidewalks, Bike Lanes, and Transit

While mega-projects may often steal the spotlight, it is the local landscape where policy changes to improve our health, environment, and quality of life can go the farthest.

- Complete Streets policies are designed and operated to enable safe access for all users: pedestrians, bicyclists, disabled, elderly, youth, motorists, and transit riders.
- The Commute Trip Reduction program in Washington State is designed to reduce delay on state highways, improve air quality, and balance regulation with incentives for employers and local jurisdictions.
- Safe Routes to Schools has strengthened the state's role in safety by providing funding that supports pedestrian and bicycle safety and safe routes to school projects.

